



THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA POSITION PAPER

The Garden Club of America supports independent, academic, peer-reviewed scientific research as the basis for formulating responsible public policy and legislation, as well as appropriate funding to ensure quality results. The Garden Club of America is a nonpartisan, issue-oriented advocate for a beautiful, healthy planet.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Garden Club of America endorses an environmentally sustainable approach to improving the nation's transportation and infrastructure systems. Where feasible, such efforts should promote the protection of clean air and clean water and mitigate and adapt for the impacts of climate change. The GCA encourages policies that incorporate natural strategies such as utilizing buffers to reduce runoff and water pollution; living shorelines to minimize storm damage; and native plants to improve resiliency and cost efficiency, as well as to prevent erosion and improve wildlife habitat. The GCA also values the beauty of scenic, unobstructed roadways that enhance the unique character of local communities. The Garden Club of America supports federal, state, and local legislation, policy, and individual action that address the following:

TRANSPORTATION RELATED AIR AND WATER QUALITY MEASURES

- Support the National Environmental Policy Act and safeguard the public's ability to participate in the review process of major federal projects.
- Ensure that environmental impact studies and assessments for transportation projects consider the effects of rising seas, warming atmosphere, and changing weather patterns in their review, to the fullest extent of the science available.
- Support the Clean Air Act, especially in requiring reductions in transportation emissions, particulate matter, and other pollutants.
- Address water degradation in transportation corridors, including runoff from roads, urban areas, and agriculture, by utilizing native flora and natural features to create buffer areas, filter pollution, and sequester carbon while providing wildlife habitat and scenic beauty.
- Reduce the use of harmful chemicals in regular maintenance protocols such as ice removal and invasive species control and encourage technological innovation in support of alternative protocols.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

- Support public initiatives that reduce emissions, prevent congestion and meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act.
- Champion infrastructure development that supports alternative modes of transportation, including walkways, bike lanes, and trails.
- Promote investment in public transportation to further support the Clean Air Act.

ROADSIDE PLANTINGS, WILDLIFE CORRIDORS AND BILLBOARD BLIGHT

- Encourage cooperation among federal, state, and local highway departments to promote biodiversity and improve air and water quality through roadside plantings, using native and pollinator-friendly plants, and eradicating invasive species.
- Advocate for the construction of plant and wildlife corridors to allow for species migration and reduce wildlife-vehicle collision.
- Expand designations for national and state scenic byways and encourage continued funding.